

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /089 W

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O R 051116Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1578

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 6074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US, UR, GW

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST INTERVIEW WITH GIEREK

1. WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENTS DUSKO DODER AND JOHN GOSHKO DISCUSSED THEIR INTERVIEW THE PREVIOUS DAY WITH GIEREK AT LUNCH WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON OCTOBER 4. THEIR GENERAL IMPRESSION WAS THAT DURING THE INTERVIEW GIEREK APPEARED UNUSUALLY FRANK AND CANDID FOR A COMMUNIST LEADER. THEY ALSO FOUND HIM VERY WELL INFORMED ON BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. HE STRUCK THEM AS A SINCERE AND CREDIBLE SPOKESMAN FOR THE POLISH NATION.

2. GOSHKO SAID THAT THE ONLY THING GIEREK REFUSED TO DISCUSS WAS POLANDS STALLED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FRG. WHEN GOSHKO SAID HE WISHED TO ASK GIEREK SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS RECENT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH SCHMIDT, GIEREK LOOKED SURPRISED AND COMMENTED THAT "WE HAVEN'T SAID ANTTTHING TO YOU ON THIS
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SUBJECT", AS IF ASTONISHED BY THE FACT THAT GOSHKO

WAS AWARE OF THE EXCHANGE. GOSHKO REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD OF THE LETTERS AND GENERALLY OF THEIR CONTENTS BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE FRG MFA. (EARLIER GOSHKO HAD TOLD US THAT HE HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ON THIS SUBJECT BY THE HEAD OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT OF THE MFA IN BONN.) GIEREK THEN POLITELY BUT FIRMLY REFUSED TO COMMENT ON OR DISCUSS THE LETTERS OR POLANDS RELATIONS WITH THE FRG, SAYING THAT "THIS IS TOO SENSITIVE A MATTER".

3. AS FOR THE MATTERS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED, DODER AND GOSHKO SAID THAT GIEREK AND HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT WASZCZUK SHOWED THE GREATEST SENSITIVITY, BORDERING ON NERVOUSNESS, ABOUT THE QUESTION OF SOVIET OIL DELIVERIES TO POLAND AT BARGAIN PRICES. GIEREK RESPONDED SLOWLY, ABVIOUSLY CHOSSING HIS WORDS WITH GREAT CARE. AFTER THE INTERVIEW, WASZCZUK AND THE POLISH INTERPRETER WENT OVER THIS PORTION OF THE REPORTERS TRANSCRIBED NOTES SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE THEY WERE SATISFIED AND GAVE IT THEIR STAMP OF APPROVAL FOR USE IN THE ARTICLE ON THE INTERVIEW. THEY MADE A NUMBER OF MIONOR WORDING CHANGES BUT, ACCORDING TO THE POST REPORTERS, THE SUBSTANCE OF GIEREK'S RESPONSES ON THIS QUESTION REMAINED AS THEY HAD UNDERSTOOD THEM.

4. DODER AND GOSHKO WERE PLEASANTLY IMPRESSED WITH THE WARM AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE OF THE INTERVIEW AND WITH WASZCZUK'S INVITATION TO DODER "TO COME TO SEE US ANYTIME YOU ARE IN WARSAW". DODER POINTEDLY ASKED WASZCZUK IF HE WERE SERIOUS OR JUST BEING POLITE. WASZCZUK INSISTED HE WAS SERIOUS.

5. COMMENT: DODERS AND GOSHKOS OBSERVATIONS OF GIEREK'S REACTION ON THE GERMAN NEGOTIATIONS AND SOVIET OIL REINFORCE OUR VIEW THAT THESE ARE CURRENTLY TWO OF THE MOST CRITICAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES FOR POLAND IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS TWO POWERFUL NEIGHBORS.

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Errors: N/A
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